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Amendment

LCO No. 4572

Offered by:

REP. STAPLES, 96th Dist.

REP. MATTIELLO, 65th Dist.

SEN. GAFFEY, 13th Dist.

SEN. FREEDMAN, 26th Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 5737

File No. 523

Cal. No. 416

***"An Act Concerning Underperforming Schools And
School Readiness."***

1 In line 20, strike "and" and after "(2)" insert "a quality after school
2 program, and (3)"

3 After line 22 insert the following:

4 "(c) A quality after school program shall include: (1) Criteria for
5 student participation in the program; (2) leisure activities that facilitate
6 social, cognitive and core values development; (3) safe indoor and
7 outside environments; (4) trained staff skilled in child development; (5)
8 specific strategies and interventions for children with demonstrated
9 academic weaknesses to improve academic performance and reduce
10 social promotion; (6) family involvement and an assessment of
11 transportation needs for families to utilize the program; and (7)
12 program evaluation."

- 13 In line 23, strike "(c)" and substitute in lieu thereof "(d)"
- 14 In line 26, strike "(d)" and substitute in lieu thereof "(e)"
- 15 In line 31, strike "(e)" and substitute in lieu thereof "(f)"
- 16 In line 34, strike "(f)" and substitute in lieu thereof "(g)"
- 17 In line 37, strike "(g)" and substitute in lieu thereof "(h)"
- 18 Strike section 4 in its entirety and insert the following in lieu thereof:
- 19 "Sec. 4. Section 10-16p of the general statutes, as amended by section
20 1 of public act 99-230, is repealed and the following is substituted in
21 lieu thereof:
- 22 (a) As used in sections 10-16o to 10-16r, inclusive, as amended by
23 this act, section 9 of this act, section 17b-749a and section 17b-749c, as
24 amended by this act:
- 25 (1) "School readiness program" means a nonsectarian program that
26 (A) meets the standards set by the department pursuant to subsection
27 (b) of this section and the requirements of section 10-16q, and (B)
28 provides a developmentally appropriate learning experience of not less
29 than four hundred fifty hours and one hundred eighty days for eligible
30 children, provided, for the fiscal years ending June 30, 1998, and June
31 30, 1999, the commissioner may approve programs that provide
32 learning experiences which are for less than said hours and days;
- 33 (2) "Eligible children" means children three and four years of age
34 and children five years of age who are not eligible to enroll in school
35 pursuant to section 10-15c, or who are eligible to enroll in school and
36 will attend a school readiness program pursuant to section 9 of [this
37 act] public act 99-230;
- 38 (3) "Priority school" means a school in which forty per cent or more
39 of the lunches served are served to students who are eligible for free or
40 reduced price lunches pursuant to federal law and regulations,

41 excluding such a school located in a priority school district pursuant to
42 section 10-266p, as amended, or in a former priority school district
43 receiving a grant pursuant to subsection (c) of this section and, on and
44 after July 1, 2001, excluding such a school in a transitional school
45 district receiving a grant pursuant to section 9 of this act;

46 (4) "Severe need school" means a school in a priority school district
47 pursuant to section 10-266p, as amended, or in a former priority school
48 district in which forty per cent or more of the lunches served are
49 served to students who are eligible for free or reduced price lunches;

50 (5) "Accredited" means accredited by the National Association for
51 the Education of Young Children, a Head Start on-site program review
52 instrument or a successor instrument pursuant to federal regulations,
53 or otherwise meeting such criteria as may be established by the
54 commissioner, in consultation with the Commissioner of Social
55 Services;

56 (6) "Approved" means meeting the criteria established by the
57 commissioner, in consultation with the Commissioner of Social
58 Services;

59 (7) "Year-round" means fifty weeks per year;

60 (8) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Education; and

61 (9) "Department" means the Department of Education.

62 (b) The Department of Education shall be the lead agency for school
63 readiness. [School] For purposes of this section and section 9 of this
64 act, school readiness program providers eligible for funding from the
65 Department of Education shall include local and regional boards of
66 education, regional educational service centers, family resource centers
67 and providers of child day care centers, as defined in section 19a-77,
68 Head Start programs, preschool programs and other programs that
69 meet such standards established by the Commissioner of Education.
70 The department shall establish standards for school readiness

71 programs. The standards may include, but need not be limited to,
72 guidelines for staff-child interactions, curriculum content, lesson plans,
73 parent involvement, staff qualifications and training, and
74 administration. The department shall develop age-appropriate
75 developmental skills and goals for children attending such programs.
76 The commissioner, in consultation with the Commissioners of Higher
77 Education and Social Services and other appropriate entities, shall
78 develop a continuing education training program for the staff of school
79 readiness programs. For purposes of this section, on and after July 1,
80 2003, "staff qualifications" means there is in each classroom an
81 individual who has at least the following: (1) A credential issued by an
82 organization approved by the Commissioner of Education and nine
83 credits or more in early childhood education or child development
84 from an institution of higher education accredited by the Board of
85 Governors of Higher Education or regionally accredited; (2) an
86 associate's degree in early childhood education or child development
87 from such an institution, or (3) a four-year degree in early childhood
88 education or child development from such an institution.

89 (c) The Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the
90 Commissioner of Social Services, shall establish a grant program to
91 provide spaces in accredited or approved school readiness programs
92 for eligible children who reside in priority school districts pursuant to
93 section 10-266p, as amended, or in former priority school districts as
94 provided in this subsection. Under the program, the grant shall be
95 provided, in accordance with this section, to the town in which such
96 priority school district or former priority school district is located.
97 Eligibility shall be determined for a five-year period based on an
98 applicant's designation as a priority school district for the initial year
99 of application, except that if a school district that receives a grant
100 pursuant to this subsection is no longer designated as a priority school
101 district at the end of such five-year period, such former priority school
102 district shall continue to be eligible to receive a grant pursuant to this
103 subsection. Grant awards shall be made annually contingent upon
104 available funding and a satisfactory annual evaluation. The chief

105 elected official of such town and the superintendent of schools for such
106 priority school district or former priority school district shall submit a
107 plan for the expenditure of grant funds and responses to the local
108 request for proposal process to the Departments of Education and
109 Social Services. The departments shall jointly review such plans and
110 shall each approve the portion of such plan within its jurisdiction for
111 funding. The plan shall: (1) Be developed in consultation with the local
112 school readiness council established pursuant to section 10-16r, as
113 amended; (2) be based on a needs and resource assessment; (3) provide
114 for the issuance of requests for proposals for providers of accredited or
115 approved school readiness programs, provided, after the initial
116 requests for proposals, facilities that have been approved to operate a
117 child care program financed through the Connecticut Health and
118 Education Facilities Authority and [who] have received a commitment
119 for debt service from the Department of Social Services pursuant to
120 section 17b-749i, as amended, are exempt from the requirement for
121 issuance of annual requests for proposals; and (4) identify the need for
122 funding pursuant to section 17b-749a in order to extend the hours and
123 days of operation of school readiness programs in order to provide
124 child day care services for children attending such programs.

125 (d) The Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the
126 Commissioner of Social Services, shall establish a competitive grant
127 program to provide spaces in accredited or approved school readiness
128 programs for eligible children who reside in an area served by a
129 priority school. A town in which such a school is located or a regional
130 school readiness council, pursuant to subsection (c) of section 10-16r,
131 as amended, for a region in which such a school is located may apply
132 for such a grant in an amount not to exceed one hundred thousand
133 dollars per priority school. Eligibility shall be determined for a five-
134 year period based on an applicant's designation as having a priority
135 school for the initial year of application. Grant awards shall be made
136 annually contingent upon available funding and a satisfactory annual
137 evaluation. The chief elected official of such town and the
138 superintendent of schools of the school district or the regional school

139 readiness council shall submit a plan, as described in subsection (c) of
140 this section, for the expenditure of such grant funds to the Department
141 of Education. In awarding grants pursuant to this subsection, the
142 commissioner shall give preference to applications submitted by
143 regional school readiness councils and may, within available
144 appropriations, provide a grant in excess of one hundred thousand
145 dollars to towns with two or more severe need schools in such district.
146 A town or regional school readiness council awarded a grant pursuant
147 to this subsection shall use the funds to purchase spaces for such
148 children from providers of accredited or approved school readiness
149 programs.

150 (e) (1) Ninety-three per cent of the amount appropriated for
151 purposes of this section shall be used for the grant program pursuant
152 to subsection (c) of this section. Priority school districts and former
153 priority school districts shall receive grants based on their proportional
154 share of the sum of the products obtained by multiplying the average
155 number of enrolled kindergarten students in each priority school
156 district and in each former priority school district for the [year] three
157 years prior to the year the grant is to be paid, by the ratio of the
158 average percentage of free and reduced price meals for all severe need
159 schools in such district to the minimum percentage requirement for
160 severe need school eligibility, provided no such school district shall
161 receive a grant that is less than the grant it received for the prior fiscal
162 year.

163 (2) Six and five-tenths per cent of the amount appropriated for
164 purposes of this section shall be used for the competitive grant
165 program pursuant to subsection (d) of this section.

166 (3) The Department of Education may retain up to five-tenths of one
167 per cent of the amount appropriated for purposes of this section for
168 coordination, program evaluation and administration.

169 (4) If a town that is eligible for a grant pursuant to subsection (c) of
170 this section does not submit, by January first, a plan which is

171 subsequently approved for the expenditure of the entire amount of
172 funds for which such town is eligible, the department may use up to
173 ten per cent of any amounts such town has not earmarked for
174 expenditure to provide supplemental grants to other towns that are
175 eligible for grants pursuant to subsection (c) of this section.

176 (f) Any school readiness program that receives funds pursuant to
177 this section or section 9 of this act shall not discriminate on the basis of
178 race, color, national origin, gender, religion or disability. For purposes
179 of this section, a nonsectarian program means any public or private
180 school readiness program that is not violative of the Establishment
181 Clause of the Constitution of the State of Connecticut or the
182 Establishment Clause of the Constitution of the United States of
183 America.

184 (g) Subject to the provisions of this subsection, no funds received by
185 a town pursuant to subsection (c) or (d) of this section or section 9 of
186 this act shall be used to supplant federal, state or local funding
187 received by such town for early childhood education, provided (1) a
188 town may use up to five per cent but no more than fifty thousand
189 dollars of the amount received pursuant to subsection (c) or (d) of this
190 section or section 9 of this act for coordination, program evaluation
191 and administration, and (2) if a town provides twenty-five thousand
192 dollars in local funding for early childhood education coordination,
193 program evaluation and administration, such town may use up to ten
194 per cent but no more than seventy-five thousand dollars of such
195 amount for coordination, program evaluation and administration.
196 Each town that receives a grant pursuant to said subsection (c) or (d) or
197 section 9 of this act shall designate a person to be responsible for such
198 coordination, program evaluation and administration and to act as a
199 liaison between the town and the Departments of Education and Social
200 Services. Each school readiness program that receives funds pursuant
201 to this section or section 9 of this act shall provide information to the
202 department or the school readiness council, as requested, that is
203 necessary for purposes of any school readiness program evaluation.

204 (h) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 1998, June 30, 1999, [and]
205 June 30, 2000, and June 30, 2001, grants pursuant to this section may be
206 used, with the approval of the commissioner, to prepare a facility or
207 staff for operating a school readiness program and shall be adjusted
208 based on the number of days of operation of a school readiness
209 program if a shorter term of operation is approved by the
210 commissioner.

211 (i) A town may use grant funds to purchase spaces for eligible
212 children who reside in such town at an accredited or approved school
213 readiness program located in another town. A regional school
214 readiness council may use grant funds to purchase spaces for eligible
215 children who reside in the region covered by the council at an
216 accredited or approved school readiness program located outside such
217 region.

218 (j) Children enrolled in school readiness programs funded pursuant
219 to this section shall not be counted as resident students for purposes of
220 subdivision (22) of section 10-262f, as amended."

221 Strike lines 324 to 346, inclusive, in their entirety and substitute the
222 following in lieu thereof:

223 "(2) Provide comprehensive services, such as enhanced access to
224 health care, nutrition, family support services, parent education,
225 literacy and parental involvement, and community and home outreach
226 programs;

227 (3) Purchase educational equipment;

228 (4) Provide scholarships for training to obtain a child development
229 associate certificate;

230 (5) Provide training for persons who are mentor teachers, as defined
231 in federal regulations for the Head Start program, and provide a
232 family service coordinator or a family service worker as such positions
233 are defined in such federal regulations;

234 (6) Repair fire, health and safety problems in existing facilities and
235 conduct minor remodeling to comply with the Americans with
236 Disabilities Act;

237 (7) Create a supportive network with family day care homes;

238 (8) Provide for educational consultation and staff development;

239 (9) Provide for program quality assurance personnel; [and]

240 (10) Provide technical assistance services to enable providers to
241 develop child care facilities pursuant to sections 17b-749g, 17b-749h
242 and 17b-749i, as amended; and

243 (11) Establish a single point of entry system."

244 After line 387 insert the following and renumber the remaining
245 section accordingly:

246 "Sec. 9. (NEW) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2002, and each
247 fiscal year thereafter, the Commissioner of Education, in consultation
248 with the Commissioner of Social Services, shall provide grants, within
249 available appropriations, to eligible school readiness program
250 providers pursuant to subsection (b) of section 10-16p of the general
251 statutes, as amended by this act, to provide spaces in accredited or
252 approved school readiness programs for eligible children who reside
253 in transitional school districts pursuant to section 10-263c of the
254 general statutes, as amended, except for transitional school districts
255 eligible for grants pursuant to subsection (c) of section 10-16p, as
256 amended by this act. Under the program, the grant shall be provided
257 to the town in which such transitional school district is located.
258 Eligibility shall be determined for a five-year period based on a school
259 district's designation as a transitional school district in the initial year
260 of application, except that grants pursuant to this section shall not be
261 provided for transitional school districts eligible for grants pursuant to
262 subsection (c) of said section 10-16p. Grant awards shall be made
263 annually contingent upon available funding and a satisfactory annual

264 evaluation. The chief elected official of such town and the
265 superintendent of schools for such transitional school district shall
266 submit a plan for the expenditure of grant funds and responses to the
267 local request for proposal process to the Departments of Education and
268 Social Services. The departments shall jointly review such plans and
269 shall each approve the portion of such plan within its jurisdiction for
270 funding. The plan shall meet the requirements specified in subsection
271 (c) of said section 10-16p.

272 Sec. 10. Section 10-16o of the general statutes is repealed and the
273 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

274 The state shall encourage the development of a network of school
275 readiness programs pursuant to sections 10-16p to 10-16r, inclusive, as
276 amended by this act, section 9 of this act, and section 17b-749a in order
277 to:

278 (1) Provide open access for children to quality programs that
279 promote the health and safety of children and prepare them for formal
280 schooling;

281 (2) Provide opportunities for parents to choose among affordable
282 and accredited or approved programs;

283 (3) Encourage coordination and cooperation among programs and
284 prevent the duplication of services;

285 (4) Recognize the specific service needs and unique resources
286 available to particular municipalities and provide flexibility in the
287 implementation of programs;

288 (5) Prevent or minimize the potential for developmental delay in
289 children prior to children reaching the age of five;

290 (6) Enhance federally funded school readiness programs;

291 (7) Strengthen the family through: (A) Encouragement of parental
292 involvement in a child's development and education; and (B)

293 enhancement of a family's capacity to meet the special needs of the
294 children, including children with disabilities;

295 (8) Reduce educational costs by decreasing the need for special
296 education services for school age children and to avoid grade
297 repetition;

298 (9) Assure that children with disabilities are integrated into
299 programs available to children who are not disabled; and

300 (10) Improve the availability and quality of school readiness
301 programs.

302 Sec. 11. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 10-16r of the general
303 statutes, as amended by section 3 of public act 99-230, are repealed and
304 the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

305 (a) A town seeking to apply for a grant pursuant to subsection (c) of
306 section 10-16p, as amended by this act, or section 9 of this act shall
307 convene a local school readiness council. Any other town may convene
308 such a council. The chief elected official of the town or, in the case of a
309 regional school district, the chief elected officials of the towns in the
310 school district and the superintendent of schools for the school district
311 shall jointly appoint and convene such council. Each school readiness
312 council shall be composed of: (1) The chief elected official, or [his] the
313 official's designee; (2) the superintendent of schools, or a management
314 level staff person as [his] the superintendent's designee; (3) parents; (4)
315 representatives from local programs such as Head Start, family
316 resource centers, nonprofit and for-profit child day care centers, group
317 day care homes, prekindergarten and nursery schools, and family day
318 care home providers; and (5) other representatives from the
319 community who provide services to children. The chief elected official
320 shall designate the chairperson of the school readiness council.

321 (b) The local school readiness council shall: (1) Make
322 recommendations to the chief elected official and the superintendent of
323 schools on issues relating to school readiness, including any

324 applications for grants pursuant to sections 10-16p, as amended by this
325 act, section 9 of this act, 17b-749a and 17b-749c, as amended by this act;
326 (2) foster partnerships among providers of school readiness programs;
327 (3) assist in the identification of the need for school readiness programs
328 and the number of children not being served by such a program; (4)
329 submit biannual reports to the Department of Education on the
330 number and location of school readiness spaces and estimates of future
331 needs; (5) cooperate with the department in any program evaluation
332 and, on and after July 1, 2000, use measures developed pursuant to
333 section 10-16s, as amended, for purposes of evaluating the
334 effectiveness of school readiness programs; (6) identify existing and
335 prospective resources and services available to children and families;
336 (7) facilitate the coordination of the delivery of services to children and
337 families, including (A) referral procedures, and (B) before and after-
338 school child care for children attending kindergarten programs; (8)
339 exchange information with other councils, the community and
340 organizations serving the needs of children and families; (9) make
341 recommendations to school officials concerning transition from school
342 readiness programs to kindergarten; and (10) encourage public
343 participation.

344 Sec. 12. Subsection (a) of section 17b-749c of the general statutes is
345 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

346 (a) The Commissioner of Social Services, in consultation with the
347 Commissioner of Education, shall establish a program, within
348 available appropriations, to provide, on a competitive basis,
349 supplemental quality enhancement grants to providers of child day
350 care services or providers of school readiness programs pursuant to
351 section 10-16p, as amended by this act and section 9 of this act. Child
352 day care providers and school readiness programs may apply for a
353 supplemental quality enhancement grant at such time and on such
354 form as the Commissioner of Social Services prescribes."